



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:45 a.m. EDT (NASA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - November 18, 2002

- ***In the West***, mild, dry weather favors autumn fieldwork, but soil moisture shortages are limiting winter wheat emergence and establishment in parts of the ***interior Northwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, mild, dry weather is promoting cotton, sorghum, and peanut harvesting across ***southern portions of the region***, but reducing soil moisture for winter wheat establishment from the ***central High Plains northward into Montana***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cool, mostly dry weather is aiding final summer crop harvesting operations. Soil moisture for winter wheat development is mostly adequate in the ***Ohio Valley***, but remains limited in some areas from the ***lower Missouri Valley to Lower Michigan***.
- ***In the South***, mild, dry weather favors some additional cotton and soybean harvesting from the ***Delta to the southern Atlantic region***, although many fields remain muddy. Meanwhile in ***southern Florida***, recent soil moisture improvements are easing citrus irrigation requirements.

Outlook: A strong storm system will depart the ***Northeast***, bringing rain and snow to an end, while dry weather returns to the ***Southeast and Mid-Atlantic States***. In the nation's mid-section, cool, showery weather will accompany a weak frontal system in the ***Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes***. Out west, high pressure will provide dry, warm weather to the ***high Plains, Rockies, and Pacific Coast States***, although a few scattered showers are possible across the northern tier of the ***Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for November 23-27 features below-normal precipitation across the ***eastern half of the nation*** as well as the ***Southwest and Great Basin***, with no large-scale areas of above-normal precipitation anticipated. Below-normal temperatures are forecast for the ***eastern half of the nation***, while above-normal temperatures are expected in the ***Great Basin and Southwest***.

Contact: Mark Brusberg, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-3508)